MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

24 MARCH 1983

Lebanon

A Lebanese Government source announced that 2 April is Lebanon's "final date" for receiving a "positive answer" from Israel to the U.S. proposals, Beirut radio reported. If Israel's response is negative, Lebanon will have "other alternatives within the framework of President Reagan's plan," the Lebanese official added. Meanwhile, U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib presented President Amin al-Jumayyil's latest proposals on security arrangements to the Israeli foreign and defense ministers in Jerusalem, according to Jerusalem television. Lebanon is willing to establish a joint military committee to which Israel could submit security problems, but it still refuses to give Major Sa'd Haddad responsibility for security in the south, to allow joint IDF-Lebanese patrols, or to permit IDF patrols to cross into Lebanon, the television said. Jerusalem radio subsequently reported that Habib and the Israelis made no great progress in their talks and that one major point of Israeli-Lebanese disagreement concerns Maj Haddad's future role. Earlier, Lebanese sources cited by Beirut radio said Lebanon rejects any military or nonmilitary cooperation with Israel.

Israel

Military Issues -- The Defense Ministry is satisfied with the U.S. announcement on resuming the sale of Sidewinder missiles to Israel, Jerusalem radio reported. The radio added that the ministry views this as a first encouraging sign toward a change in the Defense Department's attitude toward Israel. In another development a field forces command will be set up in the IDF which will unite all ground forces under one body, the radio announced.

Relations With Egypt -- Israel has rejected an Egyptian proposal to increase its oil purchases from Egypt in return for a reduction in price, according to Jerusalem radio. The radio added that Israel decided to buy oil from as many sources as possible following its bitter experience with oil exports from Iran. Energy Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i met in Jerusalem with Egyptian oil officials who affirmed that Egypt will continue to sell oil to Israel according to the agreement between the countries, the radio said.

Syria

Noting the U.S. decision to sell Israel 200 air-to-air missiles, AL-BA'TH said U.S. military aid to Israel is being extended in preparation for "new aggression which is being planned by the U.S. Administration and entrusted to Israel for implementation," Damascus radio reported. At the same time the United States is pursuing an "active diplomacy" in the Middle East aimed at "winning to the side of Israel Arab regimes that could be employed against Syria," AL-BA'TH added.

Egypt

Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has stated that an exchange of ambassadors with the Soviet Union may occur this year, Beirut radio announced. 'Ali affirmed that Egypt will not accept any interference in its internal affairs, but he did not give a specific date for the resumption of diplomatic relations. The foreign minister noted that bilateral trade has increased by $100 million and he referred to the return of "some" Soviet experts to Egypt at the request of President Husni Mubarak as another sign that relations have improved, the radio added.

Reaction to EEC Summit

A Baghdad Voice of PLO radio commentary stated that "the positive points" in the EEC summit statement regarding the Palestinian cause, particularly the affirmation of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, constitute "moral support" for Palestinian steadfastness in the "occupied homeland." The radio declared that the statement's emphasis on the importance of PLO participation in any peace negotiations reflects increasing European understanding of the Palestinian people's important role in the efforts to achieve a just and lasting Middle East peace.

A Riyadh radio commentary noted that the EEC leaders hold Israel responsible for not achieving peace because of its "stubborn" positions, but added that the "contradiction" in statements by European officials on their attitudes toward the Palestinian people's rights has become a permanent feature of EEC policy. The radio criticized French President Francois Mitterrand in this respect by pointing out his request to have the PLO recognize Israel as a basic step for the peace negotiations.

PLO

PLO International Department chief Faruq Qaddumi met in Paris with French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson for talks on the EEC summit statement on the Middle East, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported. The radio also broadcast a commentary criticizing President Reagan's statement that Israeli settlements in occupied Arab territories are legal "according to the Camp David accords." Reagan's statement confirms that the U.S. stand toward the Arab-Israeli conflict has not changed and is "a clear confession" that his initiative has failed, the radio asserted. The United States has offered "nothing but false promises" to the Arabs and is now asking them to make up for the U.S. failure to halt the Israeli settlement program by expressing their desire to start negotiations with Israel. Arabs "who are still wagering on the United States" should realize that the latter intends to obtain more Arab concessions while offering Israel everything it demands, the radio concluded.

PDRY-Soviet Military Talks

PDRY military officials held talks with a visiting Soviet delegation headed by Deputy Defense Minister Fleet Admiral Sergey Gorshkov, Aden radio reported.

Afghanistan

Over 200,000 Kabul citizens staged a protest march and meeting voicing their anger and indignation over President Reagan's "provocative utterances" against Afghanistan, BAKHTAR reported. The marchers convened in front of the U.S. Embassy in Kabul and burned effigies of Reagan and Vice President Bush, BAKHTAR added.

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200,000 MARCH TO PROTEST REAGAN STATEMENTS

LD240600 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Kabul, March 23, BAKHTAR -- Over two hundred thousand citizens of Kabul today staged a huge protest march and meeting voicing their wrath and indignation against Reagan's recent provocative utterances against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

The marchers, who included workers, peasants, intellectuals, parents of the martyrs of revolution, students and party and state officials, marched through various streets of Kabul chanting anti-imperialist slogans and carrying with them placards and posters.

At the head of the procession were the leaders of National Fatherland Front, leaders of various social organizations and spiritual leaders.

The protest march convened in front of the U.S. Embassy in Kabul where a huge meeting was held. The protest marchers burnt effigies of Ronald Reagan and George Bush.

Addressing the meeting Bariq Shafi'i, first vice-president of Central Council of the National Fatherland Front, said that Ronald Reagan's provocative statements only helped in the intensification of tensions in the world. He added that the mad ravings and lies of the White House chief whose hands are stained with the blood of thousands of innocent Afghans cannot have any effect on the working people of Afghanistan.

The participants of the meeting in a resolution condemned proclamation of the so-called day of Afghanistan by Ronald Reagan, describing it as being the day of mourning for imperialism, hegemonism, international reaction and internal counter-revolution.

KARMAL RECEIVES SAMANGAN REPRESENTATIVES 23 MAR

LD240011 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, at the Revolutionary Council headquarters this afternoon, attended a meeting of elders and representatives of the workers of Darae Suf District, Samangan Province. He talked with them in a cordial and democratic atmosphere.

After welcoming the elders and representatives of the Darae Suf workers to Kabul, Babrak Karmal said:

Esteemed brothers: Much has been said about the April Revolution and its new development stage, the lofty objectives and aspirations of the party and the revolutionary government, the objectives of DRA social organizations, and the wishes and sufferings of the people of Afghanistan. However, throughout the history of its political struggles, right up to the present, the PDPA has been mindful of the sufferings of our toiling people.

Babrak Karmal added: The most important and fundamental issue in the present circumstances of the country is to restore peace and security throughout the country. This requires, first of all, the unity, cohesion, and fraternity of all nationalities and tribes in Afghanistan. We want this unity and fraternity on the basis of righteousness and justice. It is one of the sacred duties of our revolutionary government to bring unity and fraternity to DRA citizens and our fraternal compatriots.

Babrak Karmal said our party and revolutionary government want to resolve entirely the nationalities issue in Afghanistan and to safeguard the traditions, customs, language, and culture of our people in accordance with law and justice, which is consistent with the principles of Islamic law and the freedom of our people.

Babrak Karmal added that the workers of Darae Suf, from the very start of the new development stage of the April Revolution, expressed their solidarity with their revolutionary government and defended their honor and dignity and the lofty objectives of the April Revolution. This is a lofty example of patriotism which cannot be forgotten by history.

Winding up his talk, Babrak Karmal asked the elders and representatives of the workers of Darae Suf District, to explain the lofty objectives of the party and our revolutionary government to those compatriot brothers who have not yet perceived the truth of the April Revolution, and to invite them to join in unity and solidarity under the leadership of the PDPA for the construction of a prosperous society in Afghanistan.

Finally Abdol Karim and Wakil Nezam, two of the representatives, spoke on behalf of the others and pledged every sacrifice and devotion of their people for the defense of the humane objectives of our party and revolution and the defense of the lofty objectives of the April Revolution.

As a gesture of respect, honesty, and truthfulness of their people they then presented a gown to Babrak Karmal.

REBEL SAYS SITUATION 'WORSENED SINCE ANDROPOV'

AU210905 Rome ANSA in English 0830 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] (ANSA) -- Rome, March 21 -- A plea for Western aid for the Afghan resistance fighting Soviet troops occupation was (?made) in Rome, on the eve of today's "international day of Afghanistan" by Abdul Rahim, the head of the political committee of one of the Afghan resistance alignments, Jamiat-e Eslami.

"The cause of the Afghan guerrillas is the cause of the Western countries. For this reason I have come to Italy and to other Western countries," the rebel leader told ANSA.

Rahim, along with other representatives of the Afghan resistance, will take part today in a demonstration in the capital sponsored by the province of Rome and will meet with head of state Allesandro Pertini.

In his statement to ANSA, he declared that Afghanistan, invaded by the Soviet Union in December 1979, represents a "red line", a crucial point of reference in the international political situation.

"The Western countries must help us. The Soviets are bombing our towns and villages. They are laying siege to us economically, destroying our agriculture.

"Other than political support," he continued, "we are asking the Western countries for concrete economic aid so that the resistance will not be weakened."

Rahim insisted that "negotiations for a settlement in Afghanistan must be conducted between the Soviets and the mujahidin freedom fighters. The mission led by the UN envoy, Diego Cordovez, cannot be successful because negotiations cannot be conducted among Iran, Pakistan and the Afghan Government but must include the mujahidin, the true representatives of the Afghan people. Cordovez, on the other hand, did not even talk to us." he said.

According to the Afghan resistance representative, some 80 percent of the land in the country is controlled by the mujahidin. He said that the Soviets, whose strength in the country he put at 200,000 men plus 20,000 Afghan regulars, control the big cities and the major communication routes "but even here the guerrilla battle has been stepped up," he said, "especially in the evening and during the night."

After referring to the guerrilla campaign in Kabul and in the other major cities, the representative said that over one million people have been killed in the country since the onset of the Soviet occupation, most of them women and children.

He said that Soviet fatalities have climbed to 20,000 and that some 4 million Afghans have fled the country, 2.5 million to Pakistan and an additional 1.5 million to Iran. There are another 4 million displaced persons still in the country, Rahim said.

The Afghan rebel leader went on to charge the Soviets with the use of chemical warfare against the Afghan population and cited the discovery of gas masks and of bodies of persons who have apparently died as a result of gas or chemical substances.

"But this is only one of the atrocities perpetrated by the Soviets against the Afghan people and the situation has worsened since Yuriy Andropov came to power" in November last year as the general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party, according to Rahim.

After affirming that the goal of the mujahidin is the creation of an Islamic state in Afghanistan with a freely elected parliament, the resistance leader affirmed, "If we cannot negotiate, if we cannot find a solution for the Afghan problem, we are willing to fight and die so long as one Soviet remains in Afghanistan."

HEZB-E ESLAMI HEAD COMMENTS ON NEGOTIATIONS

PM221513 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 19 Mar 83 p 12

[Savik Shuster dispatch]

[Excerpt] Peshawar, March [as published] -- The war in Afghanistan is being fought between the mujahidin and Soviet troops. But the United Nations is seeking political negotiations with the Iranian and Pakistani Governments and the Kabul regime. "It is absurd," I was told by Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, leader of the powerful Hezb-e Eslami, Afghan Islamic Party, in Peshawar.

In January, Diego Cordovez, representative of the UN secretary general, started his "peace tour" between Kabul, Islamabad, and Tehran in search of a peaceful solution to the Afghan crisis. Following the first round of talks in Pakistan, it was said that Diego Cordovez was satisfied and optimistic and that he was formulating a mechanism for involving the Afghan resistance in the second round of "indirect" negotiations in Geneva in April.

According to the authoritative Islamabad daily THE MUSLIM on 6 February, the very possibility of the mujahidin participating in the negotiations should have "prompted the interest of the Iranian authorities in the process." However, on 7 February, a negative response came from Tehran. "We will not negotiate, either directly or indirectly, with the Kabul regime," the Iranian Foreign Ministry announced.

In the past few days, another tide of optimism has arrived from New Delhi, where UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, attending the nonaligned summit, said he too was confident of a political solution in Afghanistan.

"If Diego Cordovez wants to do something for the Afghan people, he must choose two interlocutors -- the mujahidin and the Soviet leaders, certainly not Babrak Karmal, who is a mere Russian soldier," Gulbuddin Hikmatyar added. "We don't have much to talk about with the Soviets -- an unconditional withdrawal, yes; Afghanistan's future, no.

"The Soviets have had their own reasons for seeking a peaceful road," Hikmatyar continued. "From the outset of the invasion, they have been arguing that the Afghan crisis concerns the Iranian, Pakistani, and Kabul governments. The United Nations has fallen into the trap and now the world awaits the 'miracle' from the others, not from the Afghan people or from the Kremlin leaders.

"Another of the Soviets' objectives," Hikmatyar went on, "is to create friction between the mujahidin and the Pakistani Government so as to prevent the flow of weapons and refugees. We have resisted the Soviets with bare hands. Now we are better armed and better trained. We will force the Russians to retreat by war."

Gulbuddin Hikmatyar is full of charisma and determination. He knows how to talk and to make people listen to him. He began his struggle for an Islamic Afghanistan back in 1968 when "one April night," he recounted in his Peshawar office, "12 of us at Kabul University formed a clandestine Islamic council. I am the only survivor. The others were killed. The communists also killed my father and two of my brothers."

I was meeting him for the first time. Wearing a simple Afghan costume with a U.S. military jacket, he surprised me by his youthful appearance, despite his long beard. He is, in fact, only 34. Gulbuddin Hikmatyar is famous not only for the strength of his party but also because he finds it difficult to get along with the other leaders of Islamic parties, some of whom told me that by obstructing unity Gulbuddin is working for the Soviets' interests. I asked him his opinion.

"They accuse me because I don't want compromises; I want Islamic laws in Afghanistan; I don't want another superpower in the Soviets' place."

Despite their mistrust, the mujahidin in Peshawar have followed Diego Cordovez' endeavors with interest. "We must seek a militarily negotiated solution against the Soviets. [as published] In the long run, we cannot make it," I was told by (Rakhin), a young official of Hamiat-e Eslami, the Islamic Society, another major party of the Afghan resistance.

Its leader is B. Rabbani, a former professor of Islamic law at Kabul University. "A decision without the mujahidin's agreement will never come to anything," he said when we met. "We will never negotiate with Babrak Karmal -- only with the Soviets -- but exclusively on the form of their withdrawal. A cease-fire is their security. The Russians have no say in Afghanistan's future."

'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES CRUSHED' NEAR QONDUZ

LD231734 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] A group of counterrevolutionaries who intended to disrupt the security and peace of workers in Qonduz City was crushed recently along with their ringleader in (Abdorashid) village near Khanabad Port, by means of the sarandoy and revolution defense groups. Assorted weapons were seized from them.

RAO ON BIDS TO FIND SOLUTION TO IRAN-IRAQ WAR

BK240415 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, has said that India will soon get in touch with the concerned governments to find a solution to the Iran-Iraq war and the Palestinian issue. He was replying to the points raised by members at a meeting of the Congress-I Party in parliament in New Delhi yesterday.

About the difficulties of Indians in getting visas for visiting Pakistan, he hoped that some flexibility might be expected with the setting up of a joint commission by the two countries.

DALAI LAMA BEGINS ARUNACHAL PRADESH TOUR

BK240743 Hong Kong AFP in English 0709 GMT 24 Mar 83

[By Dilip Ganguly]

[Excerpts] New Delhi, March 24 (AFP) -- The spiritual and temporal leader of the Tibetans, the Dalai Lama, today left for Arunachal Pradesh, an Indian state in the strategic northeast bordering Tibet, but strongly disputed by China.

The visit, cleared by the Indian Federal Government, may spark off a diplomatic row between India and China running the risk of stalling the normalization process between the two neighbours, several diplomatic observers here said.

The visit lasting for 45 days has surprised observers as Chinese sensitivity on the status of the 83,578 km state is widely known.

What has particularly surprised diplomatic observers here is that the Indian Government does not allow any foreigners, including journalists, to visit the northeastern states. Even Indians are required to take what is called an "inner line permit" to visit the border areas, which have a very high concentration of Indian troops facing the Chinese.

The areas where the Dalai Lama will visit include Tawang, Dirang, Tezu, Miao and capital city of Itanagar. He will attend an official reception given by the state administration in Itanagar, a Tibetan spokesman here said.

Meanwhile, an Indian Government spokesman here said the Dalai Lama's mission to Arunachal Pradesh was of "purely religious nature."

"There is no question of a Chinese reaction on his visit as the state is part of the Indian union," the spokesman, Manishanker Aiyyar said.

"The Dalai Lama is an honoured guest here and he is free to visit wherever he likes," he said.

INDIAN-SOVIET PLANNING GROUP MEETS IN NEW DELHI

BK240402 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] The seventh meeting of the Indo-Soviet planning group has begun in New Delhi. The meeting is discussing among other things regional planning, use of railway transport and water resources, and planning of fuel energy complex. Inaugurating the meeting, the planning minister, Mr S.B. Chavan, said Indo-Soviet cooperation and trade have increased sevenfold since 1950.

AKALI DAL HEAD EXPRESSES SORROW OVER VIOLENCE

BK231713 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] In a statement in Amritsar, Akali Dal President Sant Harchand Singh Longowal expressed his deep concern and sorrow over the current incidents of violence in the state. Describing these incidents as a potential danger to peace and tranquillity of the state and the country, he said Akali Dal will carry on a peaceful and nonviolent struggle in pressing their demands.

SIKH LEADER FACES ARREST OUTSIDE GOLDEN TEMPLE

BK240831 Hong Kong AFP in English 0802 GMT 24 Mar 83

[By Joel Henry]

[Text] New Delhi, March 24 (AFP) -- Sikh religious leader Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, accused of inciting to violence, will be arrested the moment he sets foot outside of the Golden Temple, the Sikh holy place at Amritsar in Punjab State.

The arrest threat follows continued violence in the northeastern state with two further deaths in the past 24 hours.

"He will be arrested as soon as he comes out, the repercussions notwithstanding," an officer of the federal police unit blocking all entrances to the temple said today.

The sant has a permanent bodyguard of some 2,000 to 3,000 Sikhs armed with guns, spears and swords. In a face-off with the police in New Delhi last September, an officer had his leg slashed by a sword wielded by a militant Sikh, police then opened fire killing six protesters. The police wait at the ready outside of the temple as they have no right to enter a religious sanctuary. It appears however that authorities will allow searches in buildings adjoining the Golden Temple, as authorities believe that these are serving as refuge to wanted "criminals" and as arms depots.

Following a series of attempted assassinations leaving two dead and eight wounded in the last 48 hours, Punjabi Prime Minister Darbara Singh, a Sikh member of the Congress Party, said that police would search the temple's adjoining living quarters which are outside of the sanctuary.

The sant's call for a Sikh mass uprising to protect the temple appears to have caused the authorities to back-off. Doubts have risen on the government's will or ability to confront the extremists who had proven in the last 48 hours that they could strike at will whenever and wherever they want, the pro-governmental HINDUSTAN TIMES said today.

They have been two new victims in Punjab in the last 24 hours, identified as Sikh belonging to the Nirankari sect that is hostile to the Golden Temple. They were shot down in cold-blood in broad daylight.

At the same time a grenade exploded in a magistrate's house in Patiala in south Punjab. Police believed that the real target was a neighboring Congress member of parliament. No one was injured but some damage was incurred.

Breaking an eight-month silence, former Indian President Sanjiva Reddy said yesterday that the country was in danger of imminent disintegration and he blamed the highly centralized federal system for the trouble in Assam and Punjab. Mr. Reddy, who left his post last July, said he believed that the states had the right to function autonomously and not like municipalities.

DELHI BUS STRIKE ENDS; SERVICE RESUMES 24 MARCH

BK240314 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] The 1-day token strike called by the Delhi Transport Corporation [DTC] mazdoor [workers] congress ended last night. A spokesman of the DTC said this morning that the bus services are slowly returning to normal. He said tires of a large number of buses were deflated in yesterday's violence and it will take some time to put all buses on the road. However, he hoped that most of the buses will be able to ply during the day. Our correspondent, who went round some areas, says a few buses are plying.

NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION MADE IN WEST BENGAL ASSEMBLY

BK240404 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] In West Bengal, a no-confidence motion against the Council of Ministers was moved in the assembly yesterday. The motion was tabled by the opposition parties, mainly the Congress-I and the Congress-S. Moving the resolution, Congress-S member Dr Zainal Abedin criticized the left front government for its all-round failure. He said that during the last 6 years of the front rule, the econo[illegible]c situation in the state is deteriorating.

SPACE LAUNCH VEHICLE FLIGHT SCHEDULED FOR APRIL

BK211340 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] The second development flight of the space launch vehicle, SLV-D2, will be launched in the second week of April. This was announced by the Indian space research organization in Bangalore today.

CONTRACT FOR FRENCH SUPPLIED URANIUM CONCLUDED

BK240800 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] A commercial contract between India and France for the supply of enriched uranium to India was concluded last Monday. Giving this information in the Rajya Sabha today, the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, said with this, fuel supplies are expected to commence shortly. In reply to a question, Mrs Gandhi said that the two countries had agreed in November last year to supply the enriched uranium needs of the Tarapur atomic power station in lieu of the United States. This is within the framework of the 1963 cooperation agreement between India and the United States.

BRIEFS

TRADE DEFICIT REDUCED -- India's trade deficit has come down marginally. The deficit was 500 million rupees less during the first 9 months of the current financial year as compared to the same period in 1981-82. This followed a 15 percent increase in exports. The imports increased only 8 percent. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Mar 83 BK]

AYATOLLAH KHOMEYNI ADDRESSES OFFICIALS ON NEW YEAR

LD211626 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Ayotallah Khomeyni address to state, military, and clerical officials on 21 March at Jamaran Mosque -- recorded, duration 55 minutes]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. On the occasion of the new year, I extend my congratulations to all the gentlemen present here and to all the nation, particularly the fighters who are making sacrifices on the battlefronts, the survivors of dear martyrs, and relatives of the disabled. I hope that the most exalted God will continue to bestow His blessings for the continued future victories of Islam and Muslims, as has been the case from the outset.

What has been achieved over the past few years is known to you gentlemen. These achievements are so many we are unable to count them. I have already advised those in charge of affairs to communicate to the nation the huge volume of our achievements. This is necessary because, as you know, outside media and deviant individuals constantly tell the world that no victory has yet been achieved by Islam and that the Islamic Republic is on its way out. What you have achieved should be communicated to the people, for such outside propaganda might -- God forbid -- influence some people who are not quite aware of the situation. The volume of things done for the poor and the deprived by the Islamic Republic is so much greater than all those things done by the father and his son during their dynasty.

Many people imagine that wealth and assets in the bank bring happiness. This is a mistake. When we investigate, we see that the happy ones are those living in shanty towns and not those living in palaces. None of the things contributed by the lowly to the world at large ever emanated from those living in palaces. We must make efforts to eradicate the mentality of wanting to become palace dwellers. If you want to make your nation eternal and to make Islam a reality in society as the most exalted God Almighty desires, you should eradicate the mentality of wanting to become palace dwellers. Praise be to God that none of those in charge of the country's affairs is a palace dweller. Our government is not a palace-dwelling government.

The day our government feels attracted to living in palaces is also the day when we should say goodbye to this state. The day our president -- God forbid -- abandons his life of humble surroundings and is attracted to living in a palace is also the day he will bring decadence to himself and those around him.

The day we are surrounded by glittering trinkets, and the day Satan manages to enter our souls to direct us, is also the day when superpowers will be able to influence us and drag our country to destruction. This country's corruption and decadence have always emanated from palace dwellers. The tyrannical palace dwellers could never know what poverty and privation meant to the people.

We have problems for which we must find solutions. One is the question of justice, a topic on which we have commented before. Yesterday, a member of the judiciary council came to me and told me of the prevailing situation. He said that today, despite all efforts rendered in the judiciary field, we nonetheless face a shortage fo religious judges. I told him that for the time being we need 120 religious judges or clergymen. I have already explained what is expected of religious seminaries, large seminaries such as in Qom -- which has performed well in training and providing the required personnel -- seminaries such as in Isfahan, Meshhad, Azarbayjan.

You should remember that the field of judiciary is within your jurisdiction; it is a field and a task the discharge of which is a duty of learned people. They are responsible before the Almighty and cannot sit by and witness the seminars not being able to dispatch religious judges to such and such a location.

Despite our shortages of religious judges, we should not just sit and allow the judiciary to remain as it is. We must do our best; the seminaries must try their best. There are competent individuals in those seminaries who are not engaged in lecturing. Well, there are many people who can be dispatched. Isfahan, Mashhad, Tabriz can afford to send some qualified judges? This is a task that must be realized. We should not just sit and ask ourselves who is going to perform this task. Where else but those seminaries can we find the qualified judges. Of course, the judiciary must simultaneously plan for the future -- training of great and qualified judges and finding a solution to our current shortages. The question of justice cannot wait. Today, with the permission of jurisconsults, a number of people have to be entrusted with the task, to carry the task even [word indistinct]. This is a religious duty for all of us.

The next issue is the judiciary itself. The judiciary must realize that it is dealing with the individuals' wealth and properties [words indistinct] and it must employ qualified people.

What I had stated in the 8-point decree, of course, has been pursued. Yet, it requires greater attention and pursuance. The government must pursue its tasks with firmness and determination in order to end the country's disorders. Of course immediately after I state that something must be done, this very night, when you listen to foreign broadcasts, they begin to say it seems that the situation in Iran is out of control completely. That is because Khomeyni has stated that such and such ought to have been done. If the Koran dictates piety, it should not be concluded that (?Islam) lacks piety, so people must go and look for it. Well, what I say is guidance. Even when people behave well, they still need advice. God Almighty advises the prophet, orders piety. Now if that broadcast argues that the Almighty had ordered its prophet to promote piety, it doesn't mean that the prophet did not have piety.

Everything has changed from the past. We must thank God for this unity. No matter if the entire world is against us [words indistinct]. We are together, but still at night foreign broadcasts will continue to say that everything is out of control. Nevertheless, advice is always necessary. A point is repeated in the Koran because the Koran wants to make people truly human. The Koran is not just history.

We ought to keep advising each other. Seminaries must keep advising the government and the nation and inviting them to piety, morality, spirituality. People also should repeat those invitations. Our nation is currently doing so, but must increase its efforts. In its debates, the Majlis must try to instruct people. An argument within the Majlis is identical to war between two jurisconsuls. That doen't mean that they don't have disputes among them, among the jurisconsuls. From the early days of Islam, such differences of opinion did exist. If these differences were not there then [word indistinct] would not have been as powerful as we see today.

There also were differences of opinions in the seminaries. The lecturer use to say something; the student use to say something else. They kept arguing and others benefited from those debates. Our Majlis must pursue the same method. It is not a question of dispute; it is a question of scientific debate; it is a spiritual debate. People must be educated in ethics. There should not be a dispute over them.

As long as we are united -- hand in hand -- and read prayers of unity, we will continue to survive. We will be eliminated only when we do not hold each other's hand, when we begin to insult each other, to obstruct each other. Yet, thank God, we have a nation that has joined hands, and no one can inflict any harm on this nation. [crowd chants slogans]

This assistance that we give each other, the assistance and cooperation extended to the government by the seminaries, should continue. The judiciary must assist the Majlis and the Majlis should reciprocate. The government must help everyone. People should assist each other. The government is shouldering a burden that it cannot carry alone. The government should not be responsible for carrying that heavy task alone. Should there not be this support from the people, comprehensive support from all the masses, then everything will be unstable and there will be no opportunities to do anything.

The reason you have been triumphant so far is because you are being supported by the nation itself. God Almighty has inspired this nation to help you. Therefore, you should do your best to discharge your duties. When a government carries out its duties to the best of its ability, then the nation will support it. When the Majlis carries out the tasks required of it, then people will support it. People must remain behind the government, the Majlis, the judiciary and everyone should try to assist each other. Everyone must have good will and good intentions of serving each other and should realize that such service is identical to great prayers.

For the sake of Islam, we must forget and put aside any possible indignation that we might feel toward each other and for God's sake we must remain together. It is only under such circumstances that you will remain protected and be able to export Islam, God willing. I must point out that if Islam suffers a blow in Iran, God forbid, then no doubt it will suffer throughout the world and it will be a long time before it can raise its head.

It is a great religious task, the most important one above all other tasks, to protect Islam and Iran and to protect Islam in Iran, a task which falls upon all of you. You must have unity among you. We need unity between clergy and people; people and clergy, army, Gendarmerie and the Armed Forces with the government and everyone together. When we all join hand in hand and became [words indistinct] then no one will be able to harm us. We will suffer a loss only on the day when there is a gap in our unity and solidarity.

No one can stage a coup d'etat in this country. Under the current circumstances, no one will be able to do so. But the day when disputes emerge among you, then you must realize that the evil ones who have been sitting there and waiting, who will begin to [words indistinct]. Disputes create such situations. But we hope that this unity will continue to protect us, that the new year which has come will witness greater unity among us, and that as a result of felicity of this unity we will be able to improve our spirituality as well as our material well-being.

At the same time, we hope to have the opportunity to think and to look for a concrete solution to the problems of the homeless and the deprived. I hope those who are wealthy, those who have extra living quarters and houses, those who have means beyond their needs do not believe that their prosperity lies in plentifulness. A person who has less but has enough enjoys living, even its material aspects, much more than a person who has hundreds of mansions with the burden of protecting them at night. The latter cannot comprehend the joy of life.

Do you believe that the U.S. President or the Soviet chief are living in great happiness? The worries hidden in their heart cannot be found in anyone else. Each wants to eat up the other. I don't know if you have heard this or not. But I have heard that when wolves want to sleep, when there is a crowd of them, they sleep on each other. That means they form a circle in which no wolf turns its back on the other. That is because they fear if they turn their back there is a chance that they will be eaten up by another wolf.

Superpowers are living in the same climate. The amount of time that the United States concentrates on undermining the situation in the Soviet Union and the latter is thinking about undermining the situation in the United States and everyone is preoccupied with atomic weapons and are disputing over them naturally creates a disturbing situation. They fear each other. This one is afraid of that, and that one is afraid of the other and so on.

In this troubled world, we must try to protect ourselves and the only path to salvation is to rely on Islam and to observe Islamic principles and remain concerned with the situation of the poor people. I address those people who have extra wealth and extra property to be a little considerate concerning these poor people. We hope that a situation requiring force to reduce the amount of rent by 2000-3000 tomans, which they are receiving as income, and to let these poor people too have a kind of living will not arise. We hope that people will voluntarily solve the issue and will make average living conditions available to the poor. These poor people are satisfied with an average living condition, a condition in which they can raise their heads. God Almighty, God willing, will make all of you succeed and bless and make this year an auspicious one for you and all the Muslims and the world oppressed and our dear people.

Peace be upon all of you.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 1,257

LD231726 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Communique No 1,257 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The results of the battle of the powerful warriors of Islam on the battlefronts of the imposed war are brought to the attention of our dear compatriots.

On the southern operational fronts, the combatants of Islam yesterday continued the task of consolidating their defensive positions. By opening fire on concentration points, operational centers, and the supply and communication lines of the Saddamist mercenaries, the combatants of Islam controlled enemy movements and activities and inflicted losses on the forces of the Iraqi Zionist regime. The warriors of Islam silenced the fire of the Ba'thist aggressors and killed or wounded a number of enemy soldiers.

The defensive fire of the self-sacrificing warriors of Islam on the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts killed or wounded a number of Iraqi soldiers. The warriors of Islam on these fronts also set fire to and destroyed more than 14 trenches and foxholes and 1 ammunition depot of the Saddamists.

During the past 24 hours, the Saddamist criminals opened long-range artillery fire on Abadan and Khorramshahr and their suburbs. Several areas were set on fire.

Fighting continued on the western fronts. The combatants of Islam defended their own positions and the regions under their protection, repulsed all moves of the Iraqi forces, and pounded the enemy units and positions with artillery fire from time to time. The combatants of Islam succeeded in destroying 4 trucks and 10 trenches and observation posts of the Saddamist mercenaries. More than 10 enemy soldiers were either killed or wounded.

Yesterday, the exchange of fire in the Mehran sector was more intense than on other fronts.

The fast-flying heroes of the Air Force and the powerful fire of the air defense units neutralized any intention the Saddamist mercenaries had of aggressive actions on the borders of our Islamic homeland.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

IRAQI COUNCIL SPOKESMAN ADDRESSES KURDISH PEOPLE

GF221809 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Call issued by Hojjat ol-Eslam Muhammad Bakr al-Hakim, spokesman for Supreme Council of Islamic Revolution in Iraq, to Muslim Kurdish people on the occasion of Iranian new year celebrations -- date not given, recorded]

[Excerpts] The Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, which joins its feelings and hopes with the Muslim Kurdish people, calls on this proud people to evaluate the great presents and the expensive sacrifices made by this people, the Iraqi people and their Arab and Turkman brothers, for the cause of the deprived and the oppressed people in Iraq and for liberating the Iraqi people from the criminal tyrannical clique that rules in Iraq. This is a call to put an end to the oppression, tyranny, and degradation being carried out by the criminal ruling regime in Baghdad, by all applicable capabilities of the people, anywhere and anytime.

On this occasion, we call on our brothers, the Muslim Kurdish people, to further adhere to their Islamic belief and their glorious struggling history and to coalesce with the Islamic Revolution. This belief, history, and revolution of all Muslims make them one nation and entity in which an Arab is no better than a non-Arab in piety and in which the white is no better than the black.

Sons of the Muslim Kurdish people, dear brothers, on this day, we warn you against the new conspiracy through which the agent Saddamist regime is trying to deceive our Muslim Kurdish people and to placate their feelings. This conspiracy adopted forms of sympathy and forgiveness. It is the conspiracy of the false amnesty granted by this regime to the Kurdish brothers who oppose the criminal and agent regime, the conspiracy of allowing the military Kurdish brothers to be present in the northern region to strike at each other, the conspiracy of granting amnesty to the Kurdish brothers for not joining the military service and giving them a choice between serving in the northern regions or on the fronts. This wicked conspiracy is within the framework of the delusive and trickery methods which our Muslim Kurdish people have experienced. The criminal Saddmist rule granted amnesty to the opposers several times, but he deceived the Muslim Kurdish people and knifed them in their back. Why is the criminal Saddam, who forces children and the elderly to go to the battlefronts and who collects [words indistinct] from various countries in order to throw them in the hell of the aggressive war, Saddam who destroyed the Kurdish villages and burned them with napalm bombs, Saddam who made women and children homeless, Saddam who deported thousands of Kurdish families and deprived them of the good life, why is the criminal Saddam sympathizing with the Kurdish people and wanting to give them liberty and choice?

Dear Kurdish brothers, international imperialism, the reactionary agent regimes, and the Saddamist criminal regime have always wanted to destroy the unity of the Muslim Kurdish people and work day and night to barter this people's pains and miseries in the international trade market. These wicked forces know that the salvation of this noble people is through real unity and adherence to the Islamic teachings and by commitment to the goals of the glorious history which the Muslim Kurdish people have known for centuries.

Thus, those arrogant criminal forces are trying to spread ignorance, division, and corruption among the Muslim Kurdish people in order to keep them away from their fateful issue and make them live in pain and misery, vagrancy, poverty, and ignorance.

The legitimate responsibility calls on all the sons of the Muslim people in Iraq to struggle and revolt against this regime. Every one of our people in Iraq should bear a share of responsibility and play his role in this Islamic revolution. The responsibility of the Muslim Kurdish people is a great responsibility before God, history, and the Iraqi people.

VOICE OF IRAN CITES RECENT KORDESTAN CLASHES

GF230936 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian 1805 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] At the start of the new year, Khomeyni's mercenaries invaded Kordestan. The Voice of Iran correspondent has reported that during the past 48 hours, in Mohammad Shah region, fierce clashes have occurred between Kurd combatants and the deceived group of the regime.

In the clash, 36 revolution guards and 11 Kurds were killed. The mullah's radio at the end of its Monday night newscast reported this clash without giving any details on the guards' losses and stated that [word indistinct] Kurds were killed.

The Voice of Iran correspondent said the regime intends to intensify its suppression in Kordestan this spring. A new front will probably be opened southeast of Sanandaj toward Iraq. The latest report from this region says that the Kurd fighters captured two guards' vehicles.

REPORTAGE ON AFGHAN MUJAHIDIN ACTIVITIES

Herat Province Attack

LD152050 Tehran IRNA in English 2007 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] Mashhad, March 15 IRNA -- The Afghan Muslim mojahedin in an attack on the concentration site of the Soviet occupiers in the Province of Herat, killed 70 Soviet troops and destroyed 7 tanks last week. The concentration site was being guarded by 5 Soviet jet fighters and about 200 tanks. In this attack two Afghan mojahedin were martyred.

165 Soviets Killed, Wounded

LD161340 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] In the course of several successful operations in Nimruz and Farah Provinces against the Soviet occupation forces, the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries killed or wounded 165 Soviet troops. In these operations, 17 tanks and vehicles and two anti-aircraft guns of the occupation forces were wrecked and the servicemen manning them were killed. During these operations, which are still continuing, 11 Muslim revolutionaries were martyred and 6 were wounded.

Farah Province Operations

GF171542 Tehran IRNA in English 1517 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Zahedan, March 17 IRNA -- Muslim Afghan mujahidin destroyed a personnel carrier of the Soviet forces killing 25 of the occupants in Mokhabereh near Shenidand airport, Farah Province, on March 11.

On March 12 Afghan mujahidin's mines in Zirkuh, Farah Province, destroyed a Soviet tank, killing all its crew.